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A justifiable narrative that endeavors

To meet the challenge of



"WHY A BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN?"

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KEWEENAW POINT
MICHIGAN

BY

P. B. BROCKWAY, M. D.

TOLEDO, OHIO 1952

FOR REFERENCE

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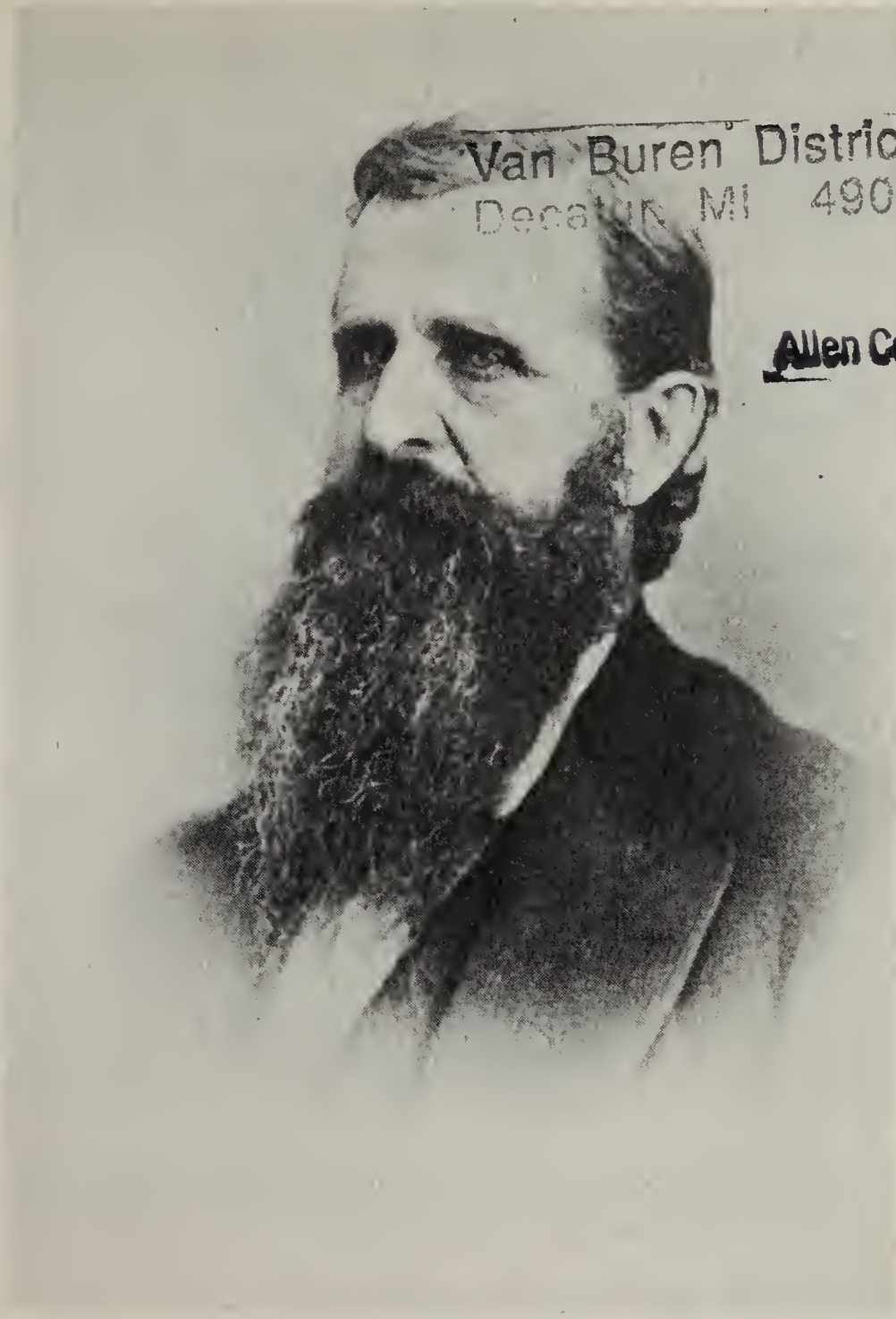
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Decatur, Mich. 49045



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D. D. BROCKWAY

CIRCA 1872



LUCENA BROCKWAY

CIRCA 1872

BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

for

D. D. Brockway, the Pioneer

The statements in this pamphlet are an attempt to memorialize a man who had faith in the Copper Country.

It is proper to set up a word picture of his personal traits and the trials that developed D. D. Brockway, so that someone appreciated the man and gave his name to one of the largest and highest pieces of rock on the shores of great Lake Superior.

This dedication was logical because the man was as stalwart as the rock and endowed with real loyalty of character and a stubbornness of purpose to serve the Copper Country.

D. D. Brockway had "Will" as an outstanding trait, as was frequently found with many English speaking voyageurs. He had a love for liberty and independence, as well as real economic motives. He had a high endowment of energy and tenacity of purpose, with a willingness to take risks -- not a gambler, but a hopeful optimist.

In searching through Brockway family data, there has not been found any evidence that heraldry or nobility was a part of our family tree.

Even the basis of the family name is obscure. It is recorded that the ancient Saxons recognized the family group under the name of Broc-quē or Broc-quā, which would make present day name usage proper. Another authority reports the basic part of the name may have come from the old English word, "Broc", meaning a badger, and everyone knows what a reputation that animal has for work. There are other suggestions that the name had relation to some trait or individual experience or some deed of valor. So it seems proper to accept the name and try to be content with some genealogist's idea or fantasy.

There is no record of the exact locality in England from which Wolston Brockway, family pioneer, came. He was born about 1638, came to Saybrooke, Connecticut, near Lyme, on Long Island Sound, about 1655. Whether he left England by request, for adventure, or because of ambition to see the world, is not recorded.

BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

So let us credit him with ambition, at least, and of having the proper idea of family life, for he married a "comely" widow, Hannah Briggs, of Boston, in 1657. There were ultimately eleven children in his family and one might suppose that there was a spark of adventure, for in the records of the sixth generation, nine children of W. C. Brockway and Betsey Hadley Brockway were born in Morrisville, Vermont. Daniel D. Brockway was born there in 1815, but he probably was well trained by his brother, William Hadley Brockway, who was two years his senior.

There is no record of the youth life of the family, nor why the two brothers traveled into Michigan after reaching maturity, neither how they became trained for pioneer life with its demands for skill and steadiness.

The family is reported as leaving the Franklin County farm in New York state in 1831 for a visit to the Chicago area, with ultimate location in Washtenaw County, Michigan. Perhaps this would now be a suburb of Ann Arbor. Anyhow, the young man got about considerably, for it was a long hike to Kalamazoo and Galesburg, where he secured a bride in the daughter, Lucena, born in Eden, New York, in May of 1816, of Dr. James Harris, one of the pioneer physicians of the state, in 1836.

It would seem that there was an independent spirit in Daniel D. and bride, for they returned to Franklin County, New York, for farm and blacksmith experience, for about three years.

In the intervening years, 1831 to 1843, members of the family were developing individual talents. William H. Brockway, my grandfather, was Chaplain at Fort Brady, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. He also was Superintendent of the Indian Missions of Lake Superior and was in contact with those making plans for the Upper Peninsula Indian residents.

This altruistic idea was to demonstrate to the Indians the American way of living by sprinkling a spiritual stimulus over the practical phases of blacksmithing, mechanics, carpentry and agriculture.

BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

To make practical this aid to the Indians, three Brockway brothers proceeded from "Sault Portage" by the old brig, "John Jacob Astor", to the Indian center on Keweenaw Bay near the present site of the town of L'Anse, arriving there August 8, 1843. They were the teachers for three years, and each had a salary of \$600.00 per summer of duty under the Indian Agent, Robert Stewart, which began April 14, 1843.

There D. D. Brockway, with his wife, who was one of the first two white women to reside west of the Sault, met the duties of residence for about three years under pioneer conditions, with no mail service for ten or eleven month periods. Living conditions are not recorded, but they must have been unsatisfactory by present day standards.

There was a daughter, Sarah L., added to the family July 17, 1844, she being the first white child born on Lake Superior shores who lived to have a family of her own, and now is solely represented by a son, Dunbar Scott, of Hartford, Connecticut. This birth of the first white child was a local event of importance and a cause for great rejoicing by both Indian and white residents. With a curiosity born of native simplicity, old and young Indians, buck and squaw, crowded about the "hut" to catch a glimpse of the white papoose. Bon fires were lighted, dances inaugurated, and presents brought to the child, Sarah.

Many of the Brockway's visitors told of copper findings in the area at the tip of Keweenaw Point. Perhaps the report of Douglas Houghton, State Geologist, in 1841 had produced a great sensation and stimulated a bold spirit of adventure in mining. He was a fellow passenger of D. D. Brockway on their trip from the Sault, but met an untimely death by drowning during a heavy storm while on duty along the rocky shores. His name is honored by city and county designation in the area.

The Brockways decided to seek the facts and improve their financial status. Thus "Dad" Brockway with his wife and three small children on May 1, 1846 set out in an open boat with two Indians and their "duffle" to reach Copper Harbor. They were "on the way two nights" and that probably meant four days for the real voyage of forty to sixty miles. There they became "Dad" and "Mom" to the whole country.

BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

At Copper Harbor a report states there were a few inhabitants living in tents, and I am sure the black flies and mosquitoes reduced family comfort. However, "Uncle Dan" soon built a substantial house at the east end of the harbor, it being the first on the location, and which he opened as a Hotel. It was used as such by almost all of the early explorers and settlers, who lauded his efficiency and hospitality. This Hotel is attested to by photo of an advertisement in a souvenir of 100 years of publication of the "Lake Superior News" of July 3, 1846, showing he was ready for visitors and friends.

LAKE SUPERIOR NEWS

AND

MINERS' JOURNAL.

BROCKWAY HOUSE,

COPPER HARBOR.

THE undersigned would inform the traveling public and those visiting the mineral regions of Lake Superior, that he has erected and comfortably furnished a large and commodious house at Copper Harbor, and is now prepared for the reception and accommodation of guests. The house is situated at the upper end of the harbor, directly opposite the head of Porter's Island and in the immediate vicinity of the wharf where the lake craft land their goods and passengers. Every convenience that the northern country will admit shall be afforded his patrons and no pains spared to please all who may sojourn at his house.

Visitors to the Mineral Regions will find at the Brockway House every accommodation for their comfort, and they are most respectfully invited to call.

D. D. BROCKWAY.

Copper Harbor, July 3, 1846.

BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

Copper Harbor was the most noted place above the "Soo" in 1845. Records show it was a Government Reservation, but when the Indian menace ceased to exist, a portion was put upon the land market. Fort Wilkins had two companies of troops until they were sent to the Mexican War in 1848, permitting D. D. Brockway to obtain his "pre-emption claim" for the land on which ultimately stood the village of Copper Harbor.

Copper Harbor, the village of business, was closely affiliated with Fort Wilkins, the Military Post, which probably held area priority until the Fort became inactive. There was cooperation between citizen leaders and the Fort officers, for D. D. Brockway was recommended for Postmaster at Fort Wilkins by the Commanding Officer (Lieut. Brossand) July 4, 1847.

There evidently was some crossing of appointment requests, for Washington records show he had already been appointed prior to that date. The letters shown bear witness of that record and the use of "Postmaster Frank" on cover to his father-in-law, verifies his privilege by use.

This phase of citizen responsibility over a period of twenty-one years warrants the monumental record as appreciation.

Fort Wilkins
Mich. Sept 13
1848/1847

Thos
D D Brockway
P. M.

Doct. James Hurris
Galesburg
Kalamazoo Co
Michigan

BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

St. Albans, July 4th 1847

Dear Sir

In the course of Mr Green's retelling
from the report of the San Francisco Press Co
transcript I would recommend Mr D D
Brockway as a suitable person to
fill the vacancy. Mr Brockway
is a first rate person for the
position. I have no doubt of his
ability to please in the position
and I take pleasure in recommending
him to you

Yours
J. B. Bissard

Wm. L. S. Stevens

D D Brockway Esq
Postmaster
Copper Harbor

BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

July 18, 1931.

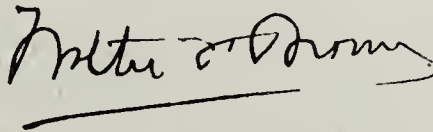
Dr. P. B. Brockway,
225 Michigan Street,
Toledo, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Brockway:

Acknowledgment is made of the receipt of your letter of July 10, making inquiry about Daniel D. Brockway, who was at one time in the postal service. I enclose a memorandum from one of my assistants which I think gives you the desired information.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



POSTMASTER GENERAL BROWN

"The best politics is the best public service."

Gruff, chunky Postmaster General Walter Folger Brown, President Hoover's chief political aide in the Cabinet.

OFFICE OF
THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

July 14, 1931.

Memo. for Postmaster General:

Daniel D. Brockway was appointed postmaster at Fort Wilkins, Houghton County, Michigan, on June 18, 1847. The office was discontinued on March 19, 1850, and was reestablished on July 30, 1851, when Mr. Daniel D. Brockway was again appointed postmaster. His successor was appointed on June 23, 1852.

The name of the office was changed to Copper Harbor, and the location of the office was changed into Keweenaw County on May 4, 1860.

Daniel D. Brockway was appointed postmaster at Copper Harbor on January 17, 1866, and his successor was appointed on December 4, 1868. The office was discontinued February 21, 1890.

E. M. M.

BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

In 1849, D. D. Brockway tried Copper mining for two years, becoming agent of the "North West (later the Delaware) Mine", at \$50.00 per month.

Also, he discovered the "Cape Mine" and organized a company to explore and operate it and acted as "Agent" for one year.

While on this duty, he sent to the Sault for a school teacher. A Susan Warren was employed by him for his children and all children on the location. They used the family kitchen as training center until a school house on his property could be built; proving that he had ambitions for his family in a cultural way and felt a responsibility for the children of his employees.

The type of school house he built is reported as almost a duplicate of the school house at Eagle Harbor, which is still standing, and in which the Knights of Pythias were organized.

Records state that W. H. Stevens gave the name "Dad's Nose" to what is now called "Brockway Mountain". The bestowal of the name, perhaps in the early 1850's, was for a fancied resemblance to "that feature of her father's face", states a daughter. At that date, there was no growth or foliage to landscape the elevated area which was reputed to be a "lookout" by Indians and voyageurs for friends or foes.

In studying the records of names and application to various locations, I was impressed with the fact that the great mound of volcanic rock was the biggest formation in the area and that W. H. Stevens, who gave it the name of "Brockway Mountain", had real appreciation for D. D. Brockway and all of his efforts and labors for the benefit of the new and strategic district.

In the March, 1952, "National Geographic" magazine, I quote, "East of Eagle Harbor Spectacular Brockway Mountain Drive climbed hill crests bright with wild flowers", and the author was able to see seventeen "smoke plumes" of Lake Freighters.

The article related a vast amount of interesting data of many parts of Michigan.

BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

C. & M. HOWLAND
Decatur, Mich. 49045

In 1851 D. D. Brockway returned to Copper Harbor, and in 1853 he constructed a "root cellar" house near the new house. The rock room was built up six or seven feet, with one door. Squared timbers surrounded this rock wall with an earth filling between; above this foundation and food storage, there were three rooms. In the front room, the first school was opened in 1856 by the eldest daughter, Charlotte, who had been at Albion Female Seminary, currently known as Albion College, for one year. She was the first teacher employed by the School Board after the District was developed. She was paid \$12.00 a month and obtained her job because the Examiner approved. He asked her, "How old are you?" "Fifteen." "Have you a beau? No? Then I guess you will do to teach."

These facilities were used until the District School building was erected.

D. D. Brockway planted the first garden in Copper Harbor, probably in Keweenaw County. He raised potatoes and vegetables in variety, wheat and oats, brought in fruit trees and berry bushes, which produced until recent years. The record shows a crop of 300 bushels of potatoes, sixty of rutabaga, and sixty of turnips in 1845.

Another first for Uncle Dan was that he brought the first piano into the Copper Country in 1856. It was the center for much vocal pleasure and probably helped the feet to proper rhythm. Anyhow, it is on display in the relic center at Fort Wilkins, together with a few items made or used by the family.

There was also an appreciation by political leaders of D.D. Brockway's practical knowledge and abilities, for in 1858 he was appointed State Road Commissioner by Governor Wisner -- again in 1861 by Governor Blair.

C. & M. HOWLAND
BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN Decatur, Mich. 49045

In 1861, he moved to Eagle River and operated the Phoenix Hotel, also contracted for the hauling of mass copper from the Cliff Mine, as well as taking needed tools and supplies to the mine.

He returned to Copper Harbor in 1863 and operated a mercantile business with his son-in-law, G. W. Perry, for six years. The record shows the family went in 1869 to southern Michigan, where among other activities he resumed farming on his wife's family property, and settling the estate near Galesburg, returned to the Copper Country at Cliff Mine about 1872.

At the Cliff Mine, he operated a typical store under the name of "D.D. Brockway & Son" (Albert). There were two buildings -- one for dry goods and shelf goods; another for groceries and mine supplies. Size of these buildings was probably 30 x 60 feet and of one story wood construction.

He was appointed as Cliff Mine "Agent" in 1881 and served until the Mine was sold to the Tamarack Company in 1892. In 1899, it was an experience of mine to prowl through the old home at the Cliff Mine, for the setting, with an outlook on the highly colored conglomerate rock, cliffs and tree clinging ledges was, probably as always, very impressive in its rough beauty. But now all is deserted.

From 1892, there is no definite record of his activities, but I am sure he was busy for the benefit of the community because of his statement that he would rather "wear out than rust out". In 1895, he purchased a home in Lake Linden, Michigan, and did retire from active work.

BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN



Golden Wedding Pictures

1886

BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

The Brockway family, as a whole, were frequently visiting for various reasons -- sometimes to get away from severe cold weather, sometimes to keep cool. In 1898 my mother, who was living in Toledo, Ohio, desired to seek the benefit of Lake Superior climate, which had been credited with health giving qualities. So my mother and sister and I started by boat from Detroit to the "Sault", where we found quarters in one of the remaining officer's houses on the site of Old Fort Brady (where my father was born in 1846).



BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

A few days' rest, and on another boat to Houghton, where a span of horses took an hour to reach "Uncle Dan's" at Lake Linden, twelve miles away.

That summer is memorable to me, for I met Eva Plews (whose mother was a Harris) and said maiden changed her name to Brockway in 1902 -- PRAISE BE, and thanks to Uncle Dan.

During the visit, I was impressed with the fortitude and patience of the physically crippled wife, Lucena, whose vitality was ebbing, and the cheerful though almost blind Uncle Dan, of whom the years had taken real toll.

The patient helpmate, "Auntie Dan", as known to many friends and family, passed away in March, 1899, and the stalwart man in May, 1899, after almost continuous residence of fifty-six years in the Lake Superior region.

The name, "Keweenaw Point", as now known, is reputed as derived from an Indian word, "Ki-Wi-Wee-Noming", meaning "place where the portage ends".

The location of the area on the map of Lake Superior is not one whit more unique than the part it has played in the history of the Lake, itself. Its shores have been havens for the voyageurs of the early period, as well as a wrecking spot with its rock bound shores.

In almost prehistoric times, "ancient miners" visited present copper fields and wrought wonderful works, leaving traces and trails to aid and direct the present day mining leaders.

The Indians made many copper tools and weapons, as well as items related to cooking and living. Without doubt, all area tribes became informed of the site to obtain the valuable metal, and in time the white man with exploring ambition and pioneer "stick-to-itiveness" aided to make Michigan's Treasures known over the entire nation.

BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

A study of the story of Keweenaw shows that "history can be written without blood". The Indians are reported as almost universally friendly and cooperatively loyal. Reports state that there were no recognized Indian villages beyond the Portage River and the Ojibway tribe is reputed as being in control of the area. One writer reports a statement as copied from a mutilated inscription on a stone marker at one time near the base of Brockway Mountain. It may have been almost an ode to an Indian legend.

1. "Beneath this slab a Red Man's body lies
2. Once to his tribe an honor and a prize
3. But death, relentless, his days hath numbered o'er,
4. His bow string like his bones will carry death no more.
5. O Stranger! Pass not reckless o'er this lonely sod
6. But hesitate and think here lies the image of your God.

On 24 November, 1951, as I sat in our room at the Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel in Detroit, looking at the floating ice and the car ferries on the river, I had a desire for a retrospective vision.

I wished to have a sense of feeling akin to that experienced by the Brockway family when they were boat passengers on the old steamer, "Illinois" from Detroit to Mackinaw, the "Sault" and Lake Superior 109 years ago.

Some members from New York state and Vermont had used at least a week to reach Buffalo by stage and canal; thence several days by steamer to Detroit.

BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

Some of the family had reached Detroit from near Ann Arbor, but I am sure that all in their travels had been free of luxury. Their experience was common to all of the optimistic and rugged pioneers. Each had some sort of a quest feeling that shaped all planning. This quest feeling surely controlled the earlier family zeal as related to those who reached Connecticut from England and French Huguenots centers to set up homes for further family disbursal.

The family letters do not show that "sordid lives" were present in the associates -- who were real Americans pushing into the frontiers with persistency and enthusiasm. It took the cream of the race to make progress with their work. There was perhaps "a divine urge" to force such pioneers in "onward efforts".

By such characters were the foundations of our country laid. They exemplified the lines of Arthur Chapman as related to the boundary areas of early days:

"Out where the hand clasp' s a little stronger,
Out where the smile dwells a little longer,
That' s where the West begins."

There were many grand individuals with stamina, the rascals did not long survive, so a proud tribute is hereby offered to the man who helped make a part of our nation and whose monument is deservedly a mountain, Daniel D. Brockway.

Travel troubles in 1847 following a visit
to Copper Harbor by "Auntie Dan's" sister.
My father, Hamline, was nearly a year old.

Sault-St. Marie?

Wednesday Morning Nov. 3rd 1847.

Dear Brother and Sister,

I reached this place yesterday afternoon at half past two, in two and a half days from your place. We had a very rough ~~stight~~ Sunday night as it was also the most of the way. I was seasick of course but nothing in comparison to what I was last fall. I found Mr. Brockway's people well. The little boy just begins to stand alone. I think he will walk soon I should hope so if I had him to take care of for he is very worrysome but I suppose they do not think so. ~~They call him~~ — his name is Leander Hamlin. They call him by the last name. I do not know how long we shall be obliged to stay at this place. The Samuel Ward made two trips to Mackinaw while waiting for the propeller. She came in yesterday morning expecting to find the propeller and Julia here but nothing had arrived consequently she went directly back for Buffalo. She left just one hour before our arrival. The "Gore" a ~~steam~~ boat belonging on the Canada side is expected in today if she comes we shall probably go as far as Mackinaw and her if not. I suppose we shall be obliged to ~~stay~~ ^{and} stay here at least the remainder of this week. I understand Captain Ansell declines making another trip this season if so I do not know as there will be any more communications between this and your place. I feel very anxious to hear how you get along be sure and

write the first opportunity. Mrs. Brockway sends her
best love to Lucena and the Baby Boy, and to all the rest.
The people at this place are very much concerned about
the Julia Hammer some think there's not a doubt but
she is lost, but I still hope for the best.
If "Brother" ever reaches Copper Harbor give him my love.
tell him to not forget me and I will try, and ~~I will~~
be a good girl although not under the ~~depend~~ care and
keeping of my dear "Brother". I am very sorry I missed
of seeing him as I had made up my mind that I
should meet him at this place. My respects to Mr.
Hammerman. Ahmina and everybody else in and around
Copper Harbor. Be sure and write the first opportunity.
I dare not read this for fear I shall not send it. My
head still continues to whirl and pitch the same as
when I was on the boat. I caught a severe cold since
I left with that exception my health is about the
same as when I saw you. I have no news to write, kiss
all the Babies for me, tell ^{them} to be good children and not
forget their Aunt Louisa. I am just a going to write
to Finney so good bye.

Louisa.

Dad & Brockway
Mamie Brockway
Copper Harbor.
L. S.
Anick
1881



"About 1898"

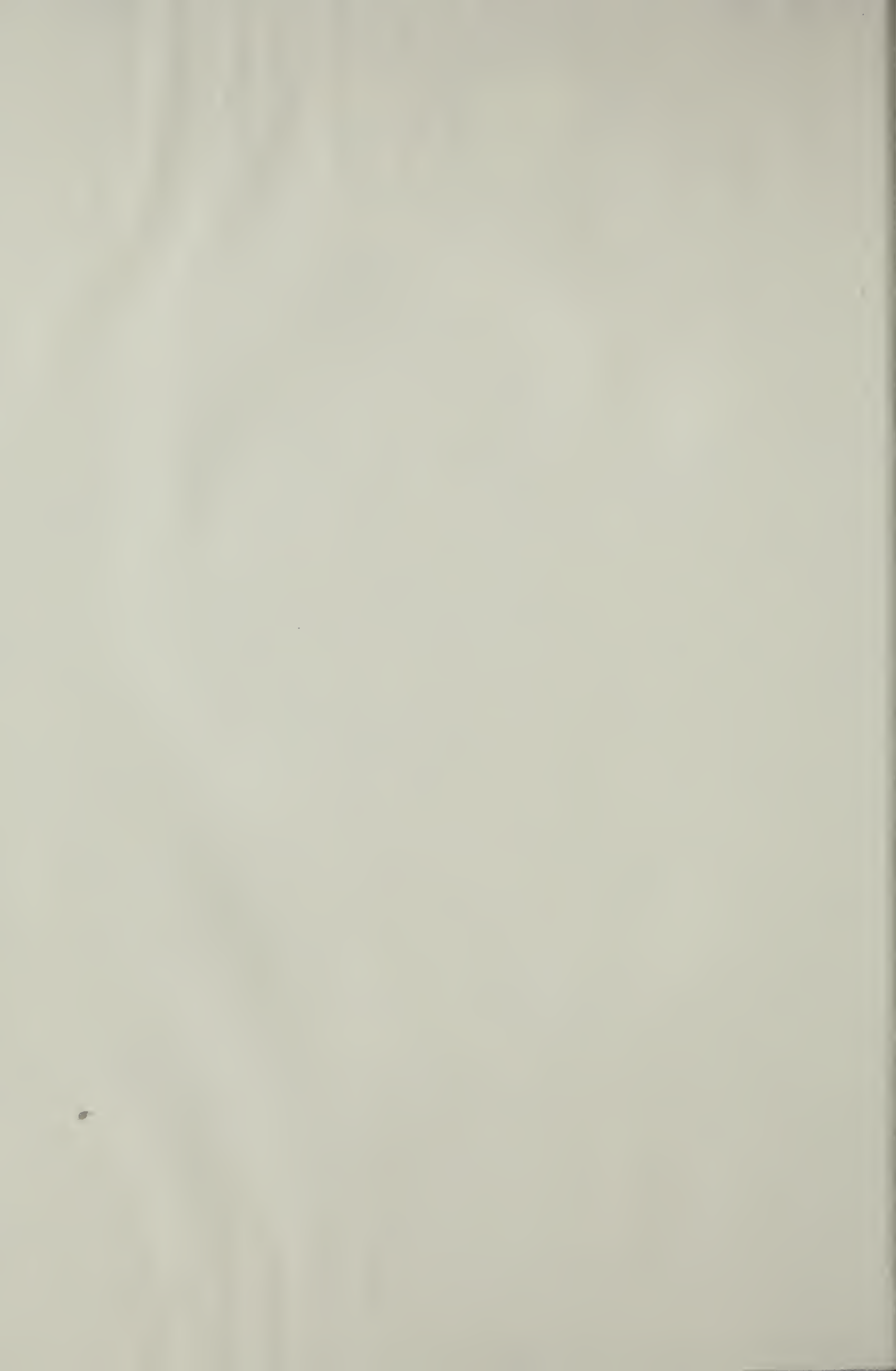
BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

C. & M. HOWLAND
Decatur, Mich. 49045



A MAP OF THE COPPER COUNTRY





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